

Mike Stoker Itinerary (v3.2)
American Samoa
40th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
August 9-17, 2018

Thursday, August 9th – Tour HIMB/Coral lab on Oahu; fly to American Samoa

7:15 am: Depart hotel, Honolulu (John McCarroll will drive; will meet Hudson Slay at site)

8:30-12:00 pm: Tour Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and Ruth Gates' Lab, Coconut Island, Oahu

1:15 pm: depart HIMB for HNL airport

4:40 pm: flight to Pago Pago – PASSPORT REQUIRED

9:20 pm: arrive Pago Pago airport – expect to be greeted in VIP lounge

10:30 pm: arrive Sadies-By-the-Sea Hotel (McCarroll will get rental car and drive)

Friday, August 10th -- Overnight Trip to Manu'a Islands

“Allow for adjustments based on weather and ‘island time’.”

7:45 am: guests will be picked up from their hotels and taken to the Pago Airport

8:30 am: all guests should be at the Pago Airport (bring >\$400 in cash)

9:00 am: a charter plane with Samoa Airways will leave the main American Samoa island of Tutuila

9:30 am: land on the Manu'a Island of Ta'u at the Fitiuta Airport and board vehicles (with luggage) to head to Faleasao

10:00 am: arrive in Faleasao and board boats (with luggage) to head the southwest corner of Ta'u to dive/snorkel Big Momma (lunch will be provided)

4:00 pm: head to another Manu'a Island, Ofu, via boats

6:00 pm: arrive at Ofu port and travel to hotels to check in

7:30 pm: enjoy a Samoan *umu* meal

Saturday, August 11th: -- Overnight Trip to Manu'a Islands Cont.

Breakfast will be served at each guests' hotel

9:00 am: guests will be picked up at their lodge, everyone will meet at the National Park beach

9:30 am: snorkel Ofu's lagoon

2:00 pm: the charter plane will depart Ofu

2:30 pm: the plane will arrive at the Pago Airport and guests will be taken to their hotels

Sunday, August 12th: -- See the Island; Relax with ASEPA

TBD, am (optional): Site visit to Alega Village Marine Protected Area

11:00 am: Join members of ASEPA at “Two Dollar Beach” for swimming, BBQ

4:00 pm (tent.): Happy Hour at Tisa’s Barefoot Bar with ASEPA

Monday, August 13th: -- Meet ASEPA and Governor Moliga; Site visits to EPA-related projects

Note: some meetings and site visits may be conducted on Wednesday

8:30 am: ASEPA; meet Director and staff; tour LEED-Platinum certified ASEPA building; all-hands

TBD: meet Governor Lolo Moliga

TBD (or Wed): meet ASPA Exec Director; key members of Fono (legislature); other important figures

Rest of Mon (or Wed): site visits to drinking water wells, Utulei WWTP, a piggery, Futiga landfill, village water system, Brownfield site next to hotel, NOAA NWS CO2 monitoring facility (one of only 4 in the world)

Tuesday, August 14th: -- Ava ceremony, and site visits for US CRTF Principals

8:00 am (tent.): Ava Ceremony (ceremonial drinking of Kava with Governor and other leaders)

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: Faga’alu Watershed site visit (CRTF bus; description below)

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Leone Coral Nursery and Mangrove Tour (CRTF bus; snorkel; description below)

6:00 pm (tent.): Reception at Governor’s Mansion

Wednesday, August 15th: -- Hold for meetings and site visits

TBD: meetings and site visits continued from Monday

5:30 pm: Reception at DMWR Marina & Award Presentation

Thursday, August 16th: -- Main CRTF Business Meeting; fly to Honolulu

8:30 am - 5:15 pm: U.S. CRTF Business Meeting (12:00 – 1:00 pm Executive Lunch)

9:00 pm: Pago Pago Airport

11:20 pm: flight to Honolulu

Friday, August 17th: -- Transit Day via Honolulu

5:50 am: arrive HNL airport

Details for Tuesday, August 14th Site Visits: Faga’alu Watershed and Leone Coral Nursery

9:00 am – 12:00: Faga’alu Watershed Tour

Activity Type: Bus ride and short hike

Exertion Level of Activity: Low

Requirements: Light hike (10-30 minutes)

Site Visit Description

The Faga’alu Watershed is one of three priority watersheds nationwide for the US CRTF. It is located southwest of Pago Pago near the center of Tutuila island in American Samoa. The watershed comprises of about 0.96 square miles of land area. The inland boundaries of the watershed are delineated by steeper mountain peaks and ridges. In the context of water quality, Faga’alu Bay is also considered a portion of outer Pago Pago Harbor.

The primary water quality issues in Faga’alu stream and bay has been documented as originating from the quarry operations. An erosion and sediment control plan was prepared to minimize the occurrence of sediment discharges from the quarry into Faga’alu stream. In this site visit, you will be given a guided tour through the village of Faga’alu from the bay up to the quarry to see how water moves through the watershed and how best management practices can help reduce impacts from upstream activities on coastal areas.

1:00 – 5:00 pm: Leone Coral Nursery and Mangrove Tour

Activity Type: Bus tour and snorkel

Exertion Level of Activity: Low

Requirements: Comfortable snorkeling and beach-based activity; bring towel and spare clothes.

Site Visit Description

In 2009 the village of Leone was devastated by a tsunami, and in 2018 hit hard again by Tropical Storm Gita. In 2012, the Leone Village Council held a series of meeting with local agencies to recognize the importance of mangroves and coral reefs and formulate a management plan that aims to preserve coastal ecosystems. In 2014, the village took part in designing and implementing a coral nursery project within Leone Bay. The model used for planting coral fragments in the reef is referred to as “Fale Samoa”, due to its unique shape resembling a Samoan guest house. Come see more than fifty of these models placed throughout the reef flat.

This site visit includes transportation to the village of Leone where you will have the opportunity to snorkel in Leone Bay.